

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for protecting publicly accessible network computer services from undesirable network traffic in real-time, the method comprising:

receiving network traffic including a stream of service requests destined for the publicly accessible network computer services;

generating request statistics based on the stream of service requests;

analyzing the ~~network traffic~~ request statistics to identify an undesirable user of the services; and

limiting or removing access of the identified undesirable user to the services to protect the services.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the undesirable network traffic includes denial of service attacks.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network is the Internet.

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising generating one or more user profiles from the request statistics ~~network traffic~~ wherein the step of analyzing includes the step of comparing the one or more user profiles with a predetermined profile to determine the undesirable user.

5. (cancel)

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 5 1 wherein the request statistics include connection statistics and service request distributions.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the network is the Internet and wherein the step of generating request statistics includes the steps of collecting and correlating Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) data from the Internet to obtain the service request distributions.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the step of correlating includes the step of identifying a topologically clustered set of machines in the Internet based on the data and wherein the service request distributions are generated from the set of machines.

9. (currently amended) A system for protecting publicly accessible network computer services from undesirable network traffic in real-time, the system comprising:

an interface for receiving network traffic including a stream of service requests destined for the publicly accessible network computer services;

a forwarding engine for generating request statistics based on the stream of service requests; and

a analysis engine in communication with the forwarding engine for analyzing the request statistics ~~network traffic~~ to identify an undesirable user of the services; ~~and a the forwarding engine in communication with the analysis engine for limiting or removing access of the identified undesirable user to the services to protect the services.~~

10. (original) The system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the undesirable network traffic includes denial of service attacks.

11. (original) The system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the network is the Internet.

12. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the forwarding engine generates one or more user profiles from the request statistics ~~network~~

traffic and wherein the analysis engine compares the one or more user profiles with a predetermined profile to determine the undesirable user.

13. (cancel)

14. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~13~~ 9 wherein the request statistics include connection statistics and service request distributions.

15. (original) The system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the network is the Internet and wherein the forwarding engine collects and correlates Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) data from the Internet to obtain the service request distributions.

16. (original) The system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the forwarding engine identifies a topologically clustered set of machines in the Internet based on the data and wherein the service request distributions are generated from the set of machines.